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## CZAR NICHOLAS II

By Valentine Syerov

Valentine Syerov, born in 1865; died in 1911. His portraits, utterly simple and direct, but of a consummate craftsmanship, are a genuine monument of the Russian Society of the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. For Russia, Syerov's portraits of that complex and gloomy epoch will be of the same value as van-der-Helst's portraits for Holland and those of Largillière for France.

*From "The Russian School of Painting," by Alexandre Benois  
Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York*